



**SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
September 25, 2003  
Minutes**

**Members in attendance:**

Tony Tizzio  
Wiley Dykes  
Wally Hill  
Andrea Holman  
John Penny  
Roger Cooper  
Jim Avitabile  
Cindy Gennell  
Al Stimac

**Staff in attendance:**

Mark Lichtenheld  
Joe Gasparini  
Heidi Terry  
Jeff Hayes  
Frank Van Pelt

**Guests in attendance:**

Mr. And Mrs. Beitel  
Ms. Wert  
Robert Cassidy  
Mr. and Mrs. Palmer

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**Mr. Tizzio called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.**

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2003. Second by Mr. Penny.

**Related reports:**

BPAC: Mr. Lichtenheld reported for Ms. Matheny who was not present that the trails team is in the process of having the GIS trails maps updated. He also reported that a study is underway with the Florida Department of Transportation

regarding C.R. 415 and the height of the St. John's River Bridge at that location. The bridge does not have the necessary height and will have to be torn down and rebuilt.

Also, he reported that Seminole County is planning to extend the trail along Lake Mary Boulevard across the St. Johns River Bridge.

Natural Lands: Mark Lichtenheld reported that there is grant funding available for the special populations trails and that Ms. Matheny is going to get details by the next meeting. Mr. Tizzio explained the background of this particular trail. Mr. Van Pelt pointed out that the newly purchased Jetta Point property may be a good location for that project. Mr. Gasparini added that the Environmental Center would also be a good choice.

FNST: Mr. Dykes voiced his concerns about the current condition of the Econlockhatchee River bridge and Mr. Hill recommended a shortcut along C.R. 419 as an alternate route for the FNST until the new bridge is constructed.

Bike Issues: No report

DRC: No report

Coordination/Planning: Mr. Lichtenheld described the conceptual plan of the E.E. Williamson Trailhead parking area. Mr. Van Pelt added that construction bids for this project should be received by October 10, 2003. Mr. Beitel mentioned that the Markham Woods Community was not in favor of this trailhead being built. Seminole County was opting to purchase the Aquatic Center at that location, and Mr. Beitel inquired about that purchase. Mr. Van Pelt responded that the Aquatic Center purchase was being contemplated by the Parks and Recreation Department and that neither Trails Team nor the Public Works Department was involved with said purchase. Mr. Beitel inquired about the history on both projects and if a presentation was to be made about how either of the two projects came to be. Mr. Van Pelt said that he needed to contact the Parks Division about the Aquatic Center and referred him to the public information meeting at Woodlands Elementary School, September 30, 2003 at 6:30 pm concerning the proposed trailhead.

OGT/FDOT: Mr. Lichtenheld reported that several members of the OGT team in Tallahassee came to visit Seminole County. Among the visitors was Capehart Perkins, the new liaison for Central Florida and Seminole County's connection at the State level. The trails team took the visitors on a field trip.

Design and Construction: Mr. Lichtenheld gave the committee an update on the S.R. 434 Overpass. The overpass is scheduled to be completed in November 2004. Also he reported on a possible route change of the Cross Seminole Trail because of an eagle being in the original route.

## **Old Business**

## Subcommittee News:

Speakers Bureau Committee: No report

Trails Week Committee: Ms. Terry informed the committee that the trails team in partnership with the City of Lake Mary is planning an Inline Skating Clinic at the Seminole County Softball Complex in Altamonte Springs on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Hayes informed the committee of an invasive plant cleanup event on the Seminole Wekiva Trail, details to follow. Mr. Tizzio reported that a special event was planned using the trails system honoring Mental Health Month in October. A walk is being planned and Mr. Hayes stated that the following route was being considered for that event: Seminole County Softball Complex to Sanlando Park and back again (approximately 1 mile). Ms. Wert urged the committee and staff to consider the people that live in the area. Mr. Gasparini countered that the adjacent property owners were being considered, that any event on the trail would have to be permitted through the Parks Department and that any event scheduled for the trail can not block other trail users and in some cases requires crossing guards. Mr. Beitel mentioned that the real issues are unscheduled events, especially around the Oakmonte Plaza and E.E. Williamson Blvd. Ms. Wert said she lives right next to the Seminole Wekiva Trail and that she wants to make trail users aware of the lack of privacy they are granting the adjacent property owners. Mr. Van Pelt acknowledged that there may be a problem but referred to the fact that the original railroad corridor was being used for transportation and the noise and privacy disruption was originally a lot higher. After some discussion about signs that designate quiet zones along the trail, staff said they would investigate the possibility of such signs and report their findings at the next meeting.

Friends of Trails Committee: Mr. Donihi was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a handout to Mr. Lichtenheld who in turn passed these on to the committee.

Mr. Van Pelt gave the committee and update on FDOT's plans to restore the flow of the St. John's River through Lake Jesup by dredging the shore lines. He also reported on the possibility of FDOT having to re-build the S.R. 415 St. John's River bridge to reach the height required by the U.S. Coast Guard Standards.

Mr. Van Pelt then reported that the parking area at E.E. Williamson was identified on the Seminole County Masterplan in 1998. Discussion ensued about the construction of the parking lot at the trailhead. Again, Mr. Van Pelt referred to the Public Involvement Meeting at Woodlands Elementary School concerning the E.E. Williamson Trailhead. Mr. Penny wanted to know where the number of parking spaces came from and Mr. Van Pelt

responded that a study was done concerning the number of spaces needed and it coincided with the budget available to build the trailhead parking lot. Ms. Wert asked about other available parking which she thought was adequate for the trail users and Mr. Van Pelt responded that those parking opportunities were not owned by Seminole County and the County could therefore not be made liable for maintenance and the identification of safety issues. Ms. Wert then asked who will be maintaining and monitoring the trailhead and Mr. Gasparini responded that the Parks & Recreation Division will maintain it as it maintains the neighborhood parks in Seminole County. Mr. Lichtenheld added that the trailhead will be open for use from dawn until dusk and should not be used after nightfall at any time; however, the park will not be gated and the surrounding property owners are encouraged to report abuse to the Seminole County Sheriffs Department if it occurs. Mr. Van Pelt concluded in mentioning that all the issues brought before the committee by the visitors were valid and should be presented at the public meeting at Woodlands Elementary School.

Mr. Tizzio opened discussion about the direction the Advisory Committee is taking. Mr. Van Pelt added that the cycle for new appointments to the committee starts in January and said the board had been valuable in implementing the trails masterplan. The planning phase; however, has come to an end for the time being. He said that the Advisory Committee could be more helpful as a "Friends of the Trails" group that had the ability to raise funds and help out with monetary issues. Trails, after construction, are linear parks and therefore become the property of the Seminole County Parks & Recreation Division. Mr. Tizzio added that the Parks Division already has an advisory board. Mr. Cooper asked if there was a possibility to merge the two boards but Mr. Gasparini countered that the Parks Board is an established Advisory Council and the number of members is set at 10. However, he encouraged the Board members to fill out an application to be appointed to the Parks Board if they so choose. Mr. Van Pelt noted that the Seminole County Parks & Recreation Division are working with the Natural Lands Divisions and the Trails Team to produce quality outcomes and urged all attending not to lose communication between all involved. He then added that he felt the Advisory Board had for some time now struggled for exact purpose and that it was evident that the group could be most useful to the cause as one that had the ability to be involved in fundraising. Mr. Tizzio mentioned the possibility of a subcommittee to discuss the future direction of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Holman mentioned the Mission Statement and that it reflects to an extent the direction the Board sees itself taking. Mr. Avitabile however agreed with Mr. Van Pelt and acknowledged that the need for the advisory board in its current form has declined over the last few years. Mr. Hill mentioned that the interest is still there and that meeting attendance was strong. Mr. Avitabile said he felt that the committee needed to look at the benefits a "Friends of the Trails" group could bring and that the board

should discuss this further as an open agenda item at next months meeting. Mr. Van Pelt said that the funds from the 2001 bond referendum are scheduled to sunset in 2006 and that there could be a future role for an advisory committee at that time because staff then be faced with planning issues. The next steps include connector trails and schools zones. Ms. Wert asked why there was a need for a fundraising group. Mr. Van Pelt answered that the funding for the trails not always included things like special signage, education, benches, furniture, water fountains, etc.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Penny. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.

**The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the County Services Building, Room 3024  
(Please check the trails website for updates or changes  
([www.co.seminole.fl.us/trails](http://www.co.seminole.fl.us/trails))).**